

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Claim No. CU -1634

Decision No. CU 3318

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, for \$9,575.40 was presented by MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION as Trustee under Indenture of James R. Ahern, for the benefit of the grantor, James R. Ahern, until his death, based on the grantor's interest in twenty bonds issued by the Association of the Religious Community of the Company of Jesus of Bethlehem College of Havana. James R. Ahern, the living beneficiary, has been a national of the United States since birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that James R. Ahern is the beneficial owner, and since prior to May 3, 1961, has been the owner of twenty bonds in the original face amount of \$1,000 each issued by the Association of the Religious Community of the Company of Jesus of Bethlehem College of Havana, and known as 5-1/4% First Mortgage Six Year Gold Bonds, due February 1, 1934, under an Agreement of May 22, 1928, with the Bankers Trust Company, Trustee. The bonds were secured by all of the Association's property in Cuba. The bonds in question bear Nos. M0619 through M0638.

The record reflects that on April 4, 1933, Cuba declared a moratorium on mortgage indebtedness, which was later extended to June 1942. On December 5, 1939, the maturity of the bonds was extended by the Association to February 1, 1944, and interest was reduced to 1-1/2% beginning February 1, 1939. On June 4, 1940 a new Cuban Constitution was adopted, having certain "Transitory Provisions" which extended the maturity date on mortgage indebtedness in excess of \$800,000 to June 30, 1970 and provided for interest at 1%, and amortization by certain annual installments.

The record shows that the last principal payment made was that due on June 30, 1958, leaving the principal due on such \$1,000 bonds as \$449.03; and the last interest payment made was that due on February 1, 1959.

The evidence establishes that the properties of the College were intervened by the Government of Cuba on May 3, 1961, by Resolution No. 4352 of the Directora Provincial de Educacion de la Havana (Provincial Educational Directors Office of Havana).

The Commission concludes that as a result of the intervention of the properties of the Association, in Cuba, James R. Ahern suffered a loss in connection with these bonds within the meaning of Title V of the Act.

The Commission finds that the amount of the unpaid indebtedness on these bonds on May 3, 1961, the date of loss was \$9,183.40 including the principal amount of \$8,980.60 and interest in the amount of \$202.80.

The Commission has decided that in certification of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement (see the Claim of Lisle Corporation, Claim No. CU-0644), and in the instant case it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION as Trustee under Indenture of James R. Ahern, for the benefit of the grantor, James R. Ahern, suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Nine Thousand One Hundred Eighty-three Dollars and Forty Cents (\$9,183.40) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from May 3, 1961 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

NOV 27 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton
Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

Sidney Feidberg
Sidney Feidberg, Commissioner

NOTICE TO TREASURY: The above-referenced securities may not have been submitted to the Commission or if submitted, may have been returned; accordingly, no payment should be made until claimant establishes retention of the securities for the loss here certified.

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims. Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)